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REPORT

ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF BUSHEY

URBAN DISTRICT OF CHORLEYWOOD

URBAN DISTRICT OF RICKMANSWORTH

RURAL DISTRICT OF WATFORD

IN THE COUNTY OF

HERTFORD

By

WILLIAM HARVEY, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1942

REPORT on the STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH in the URBAN DISTRICT of BUSHEY, the URBAN DISTRICT of CHORLEYWOOD, the URBAN DISTRICT of RICKMANSWORTH, and, the RURAL DISTRICT of WATFORD, in the COUNTY OF HERTFORD, for the YEAR 1942.

To :

The Chairmen and Members of the Councils.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the state of the Public Health, and, the reports by the Inspectors on the Sanitary Conditions, in the Districts, for the year 1942.

The analysis of the vital statistics show that 1942 was a healthier year than 1941. The total number of deaths in the Districts, corrected for inward and outward transfers, was 623; a reduction of 57 in comparison with the previous year which is not fully reflected in the death-rates owing to the calculations being based on the considerably lower estimates of the populations supplied by the Registrar-General. The death-rates for 1942 (with those for 1941 in brackets) were:—Bushey 9.8 (10.6), Chorleywood 10.7 (10.3), Rickmansworth 8.7 (8.5), and Watford Rural 9.6 (10.0), per 1,000 of the populations. The death-rate for the Smaller Towns of England and Wales was 12.1. The number of births recorded in the Districts during 1942 was 1,029; an increase of 180 over the previous year which is reflected rather favourably in the birth-rates owing to the altered basis of calculation which operated unfavourably in the case of the death-rates. The birth-rates for 1942 (with those for 1941 in brackets) were:—Bushey 17.5 (14.4), Chorleywood 11.2 (9.0), Rickmansworth 17.3 (12.8), and Watford Rural 13.5 (11.0), per 1,000 of the populations. The birth-rate for the Smaller Towns of England and Wales was 18.4. The natural increase of the population on the area, or the excess of births over deaths, during the year, was 406. There were only 31 deaths of infants under the age of 1 year, compared with 42 in the previous year; and, the Infantile Mortality Rates, or, the numbers of deaths of infants under the age of 1 year per 1,000 live births, were:—Bushey 38 (30), Chorleywood 40 (64), Rickmansworth 29 (69), and Watford Rural 24 (38). The Infantile Mortality Rate for the Smaller Towns of England and Wales was 46. During the year there were 26 deaths from Pulmonary, and 3 deaths from Non-Pulmonary, Tuberculosis, compared with 27 and 5, respectively, for the previous year. This downward movement in the deaths from Tuberculosis is very satisfactory following the slight increases which have been recorded each year since 1939.

The incidence of the infectious diseases was low—the notifications of Scarlet Fever alone showing a slight increase over those for 1941. Measles was prevalent round the middle of the year in Bushey and Rickmansworth and this accounted for most of the 358 cases notified; but there was still a considerable reduction compared with the previous year when 1,671 notifications were received during the first four months, following the appearance of the disease in epidemic form. There were 289 cases of Whooping Cough during the first half of the year 1941; whilst, in 1942, only 71 cases were recorded.

There were only 2 cases of Diphtheria, compared with 11 in 1941, and, 14 in 1938. At the end of 1942, the numbers of children in the two age groups, (a) under 5 years and (b) aged 5 but under 15 years, who had been immunized were:—Bushey, 224 and 2,004; Chorleywood, 70 and 556; Rickmansworth, 877 and 2,234; and Watford Rural, 483 and 2,137: the corresponding percentages which these figures represent of the total numbers of children in the age groups were:—Bushey 23 and 80; Chorleywood 28 and 82; Rickmansworth 49 and 67; and Watford Rural 24 and 66. The percentages of children over the age of five years who have been

immunized may be regarded as satisfactory, but such is not the case in the under fives in spite of the extensive arrangements throughout the area whereby any child can be immunized at no cost to the parents. It is of the greatest importance that children should be immunized when they are about one year old, so that they will be protected during their early years when the disease is more likely to be fatal. When young children are ill they are not good at describing their symptoms, and a serious condition of the throat may develop which may not be noticed by the parents. Diphtheria Immunization is strongly recommended by the Ministry of Health and by the Councils of the Districts; and, it is hoped that before long every child will be protected against this unnecessary disease. The experience of the city of Toronto with Diphtheria Immunization is worth while recording—in 1929, there were 1,022 cases with 64 deaths, a campaign for Immunization was started with the result that in 1933 there were only 56 cases with 5 deaths, whilst in 1940 there was not a single case. The average number of cases in England and Wales before the beginning of Immunization was about 60,000 with 2,500 deaths; and, it only needs the help of parents to achieve results comparable with those obtained in Toronto. Children may be given the immunizing injections, which are of a simple nature, by their own Doctor; at any Child Welfare Centre, if under the age of five years; or at any special Immunization Clinic in the area. An appointment will be made for any parent who writes to, or enquires at, the Public Health Department of their District. The Public Health Laboratory established by the Ministry of Health in Watford gives every assistance to Doctors in the investigation of the infectious diseases without the delay which was experienced when pathological specimens had to be sent to a laboratory in London. A special study has been made of the measures which would be employed to deal with any possible outbreak of Typhus Fever. This disease is transmitted by the body louse and the protection of personnel handling cases and dealing with disinfestation is of the utmost importance. Volunteers from the St. John Ambulance Brigade have offered to give assistance to the Departments in case of necessity and this offer has been gratefully received.

The prevention and treatment of the Venereal Diseases are of particular importance in war time, and, it is desirable that publicity should be given to the available facilities. Treatment, in itself a preventive measure, must be efficient and confidential. Delay in obtaining treatment makes the eradication of the diseases more difficult and prolonged. Treatment by Specialists can be obtained, free of charge, at any V.D. Clinic in London, or, in the Home Counties. The two nearest clinics in Hertfordshire are:—

Watford.—Shrodells Hospital, Vicarage Road.

Men. Tuesdays, 5—7 p.m.; Fridays, 2—4 p.m.

Women. Mondays, 5—7 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

St. Albans.—Oster House Hospital, Union Lane.

Men. Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.; Fridays, 5—7 p.m.

Women. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.—12 noon, and 5—7 p.m.;
 Fridays, 2—4 p.m.

A considerable amount of additional work in connection with the Civil Defence Services, the examination of canned and other foods, and etc., has fallen on the Public Health Departments, and, it has all been carried out by the Inspectors and their Assistants with efficiency.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HARVEY.

Sixty-ninth Annual Report,
South-West Herts Combined (Public Health) Districts.
22nd December, 1943.

BUSHEY

URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics.

Death Rate. (per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	9.8
Birth Rate. (live births per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	17.5
Infantile Mortality. (deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live birth)	...	...	...	38.0

Notifiable Diseases excepting Tuberculosis.

Disease.	(1) Total no. of cases.	(2) (Residential School & Institutional Cases.)*	(3) Admitted to Hospital.
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1
Diphtheria	1	—	1
Erysipelas	3	1	2
Infantile Paralysis	1	—	1
Measles	189	35	35
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	21	20	21
Scarlet Fever	26	—	20
Whooping Cough	11	—	—

*included under (1)

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year:—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	...	7	9	3	4
Deaths	...	...	...	6	1	—	—

SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Housing Statistics.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ... 54

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 0

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 47

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority ... 46

Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year:

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	0

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections	...	...	...	9
Defects	...	...	...	2
Notices	...	...	...	1

Water Supply.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

Milk Supply.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Notices	5

Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases	(1) 21,	(2) 9	Total	30
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Public Cleansing.

Direct labour and part contract scheme. Vehicles employed—two low-loading motor vehicles with metal covers and back sliding shutters. Disposal by controlled tipping.

CHORLEYWOOD

URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics.

Death Rate. (per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	10.7
Birth Rate. (live births per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	11.2
Infantile Mortality. (deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	40.0

Notifiable Diseases excepting Tuberculosis.

Disease.	(1) Total no. of cases.			(2) (Residential School & Institutional Cases.)*	(3) Admitted to Hospital.
Erysipelas	—	—
Measles	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	3
Whooping Cough	—	—

*included under (1)

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year:—

			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	2	4	—	3
Deaths	...	...	1	2	—	1

SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Housing Statistics.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	24
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Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
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Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	8
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Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority	8
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Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year:

(1) By the Local Authority	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	0

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	0

Water Supply.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

Milk Supply.

Inspections	9
Notices	1

Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases	(1) 5,	(2) 1	Total	6
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Public Cleansing.

Contract Scheme. Vehicles Employed—One motor vehicle with hinged metal covers. Disposal by Controlled Tipping.

RICKMANSWORTH
URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics.

Death Rate. (per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	8.7
Birth Rate. (live births per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	17.3
Infantile Mortality. (deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	29.0

Notifiable Diseases excepting Tuberculosis.

Disease.				(1) Total no. of cases.	(2) (Residential School & Institutional Cases.)*	(3) Admitted to Hospital
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	3	—	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	169	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		...	...	—	—	—
Pncumonia	...	...	...	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	48	—	43
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	40	—	—

*included under (1)

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year:—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	...	10	8	2	4
Deaths	...	...	...	4	3	2	—

SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Housing Statistics.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ... 156

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 0

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year:										
(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Water Supply.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

Milk Supply.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Notices	7

Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases	(1) 58,	(2) 19	Total	77
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Public Cleansing.

Direct labour scheme. Vehicles employed—Two 10 and one 6 c. yds. vehicles with sliding metal covers, and one 15 c. yds. vehicle, rear loading. Disposal by Controlled Tipping. Efficient salvage scheme in operation since April, 1938.

Canal Boats, Inspection of

Number of boats inspected	...	31	Contraventions	...	1
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WATFORD

RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics.

Death Rate. (per 1,000 of population)	9.6
Birth Rate. (live births per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	13.5
Infantile Mortality. (deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	24.0

Notifiable Diseases excepting Tuberculosis.

Disease.				(1) Total no. of cases.	(2) (Residential School & Institutional Cases.)*	(3) Admitted to Hospital.
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	1	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	—	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	8	8	8
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4	—	1
Measles	...	...	...	202	4	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	107	106	107
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2	2	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	50	6	37
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	16	—	—

*included under (1)

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year:—

			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	8	6	1	2
Deaths	...	...	9	—	—	—

SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Housing Statistics.

• Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ... 87

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 0

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 12

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority ... 10

Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year:

- (1) By the Local Authority ... 0
- (2) By other bodies or persons ... 0

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Water Supply.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

Milk Supply.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases (1) 65, (2) 5 ... Total 70

Public Cleansing.

Direct labour scheme in operation in nine-tenths of the District. Vehicles employed—Modern refuse collection vehicles of the following capacities in cubic yards, 5, 7, 10 (2). Disposal by Controlled Tipping.

Canal Boats, Inspection of

Number of boats inspected	...	0	Contraventions	...	0
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